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Message Text

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73
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 L-03

FTC-01 /075 W
---------- 082899
R 121723Z NOV 76
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2318
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2722
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
US MISSION OECD PARIS 3608
US MISSION GENEVA 7075
USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD EEC
SUBJECT: EC ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON JAPANESE BALL BEARINGS

1. THE EC COMMISSION ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 10 THAT IT WAS OPENING AN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON BALL BEARINGS, CONICAL ROLLER BEARINGS AND PARTS THEREOF FROM JAPAN (EC TARIFF HEADING EX 84.62). THE COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED THAT A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN UNDER WAY SINCE LAST MAY. A FORMAL COMPLAINT WAS SUBMITTED ON OCTOBER 15 BY THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF BEARINGS MANUFACTURERS. THE COMPLAINANTS INDICATED THAT THESE PRODUCTS IN EUROPE ARE BEING OFFERED AT PRICES 26 TO 52 PERCENT LOWER THAN ON THE JAPANESE MARKET. PUBLICATION OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPLAINT IS EXPECTED SHORTLY; PARTIES CONCERNED WILL HAVE 30 DAYS WITHIN WHICH TO MAKE INITIAL COMMMENTS.

2. HANS BESELER, THE COMMISSION OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-
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DUMPING INVESTIGATIONS, CONFIRMED TO A MISSION OFFICER THAT

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THE COMMISSION HAD COME UNDER HEAVY INDUSTRY PRESSURE TO ACT ON THE BALL BEARING COMPLAINT. HE STATED THAT THE COMMISSION WAS WELL AWARE THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT PRECEDED BY ONLY A DAY THE EC-AJPAN TALKS ON STEEL AND SUBSEQUENT HIGH-LEVEL EC-JAPAN TRADE TALKS. HE EXPECTS THAT THE JAPANESE WILL COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION, WHICH WILL PROBABLY INVOLVE MEETINGS HERE, THE PRESENTATION OF INVOICES AND AN EVENTUAL DISCUSSION IN TOKYO AS WELL. HE DESCRIBED THE BALL BEARING INVESTIGATION AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ANTI-DUMPING CASES THE COMMISSION HAS EVER UNDERTAKEN. IN HIS OPINION THE EC HAS A GOOD CASE AND THE JAPANESE ARE LIKELY TO BE VERY TOUGH PEOPLE TO DEAL WITH. HE STATED THAT JAPAN HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO RAISE PRICES ON BALL BEARINGS BY 15 PERCENT OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS BUT THAT THIS OBVIOUSLY FALLS FAR SHORT OF THE 26 TO 52 PERCENT IMBALANCE ASSERTED BY THE COMPLAINANTS. HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ANTIDUMPING LAW (TRADE), INVESTIGATIONS, BEARINGS, TRADE COMPLAINTS, COMMITTEES, TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU11128
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760424-0556
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761155/aaaabvcn.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON JAPANESE BALL BEARINGS
TAGS: ETRD, JA, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006